



# SEEDS NEWSLETTER

## IN THIS ISSUE

INTRODUCING THE FAMILY / PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE /  
WHAT'S HAPPENING! / ENCOUNTERS / BIBLE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

## MEET THE FAMILY

### Roger and Diane Caudill



Roger and Diane came to Bluegrass Baptist Church in 2015. They were attending Blessed Hope Baptist Church in Frankfort Ky. when God called them to join our fellowship. They had lived in California for 21 years, where they attended Lighthouse Baptist Church. Both met Jesus on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 1998, when they prayed together for salvation.

Roger has been a Deacon in our church for five years, with responsibilities that include Men's Ministries, Coordinating the Adult Sunday School curriculum and teachers, and Coordinating the Ushers Ministry. Diane coordinates the Meal Train Ministry for our members in need. They are both retired and enjoy serving at Bluegrass in any capacity.

### Jeff and Rhonda McFarland

Both were born and raised in Scott County, Ky, and met in the summer of 1981 when Jeff came to Rhonda's home with a bunch of boys to play basketball. They were married six months later. Now they have two children. A son, Caleb, has two children, Josie and Holden. Their daughter, Tabatha, and her husband, John Tackett, have been members here since 2011. Ian and Anna were babies then, and have since been joined by Isaac.

They are recently retired from ownership of an outdoor power equipment sales and service business.

Rhonda was saved and baptized as a child, but Jeff waited for many years to receive Jesus Christ as his Savior. After attending a church near their home in Sadieville, they began looking elsewhere and finally responded to Tabatha's invitation to visit BBC. They joined here in October, 2023, and appreciate the Bible-based teaching and spiritual guidance they now enjoy.



## **Rick and Dianna O'Roark**



Both were born in Harlan County, Ky and lived in Hazard, and Middlesboro before moving to Georgetown. Diana was saved and baptized at age 12 and Rick was saved and baptized in 1998.

They met in high school, dated for two years, and married in November, 1970. They have two children and four grandchildren—their son, Kenneth, lives in Huntington, WV, and their daughter, Traci lives in Georgetown.

Rick worked in coal mining and the US Postal Service, where he retired after 28 years. Dianna is also retired after working for the Bell County Commonwealth's Attorney and then the

National Park Service. They joined BBC because the Word of God is preached and taught here, and are thankful to be part of a congregation of fellow-believers. Forming new friendships in their LifeStage fellowship is also a blessing.

## PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

### How To Read Your Bible

“Pastor, how would you recommend that I study the Bible?” This question might be one of the most important from church members. The answer is simple, yet structured. First follow a plan, next find some resources, and finally, fellowship with God. Let me give a little perspective on each of these so that you too can better study your Bible!

First, follow a plan. This will ensure that you are purposeful and productive in your reading. A plan might be as simple as reading a Psalm each morning, then reading from the Gospels each night. Or a chronological plan could be followed, or a plan as simple as reading all the way through the Bible.

Whatever your purpose, whether to contextualize Scripture, or to find encouragement for each day, or perhaps to more deeply study a single topic, a reading plan will help you to accomplish your goal. Adding purpose to what you want to know or what you think God is trying to communicate to you at this point in your life will ensure more consistent and productive reading.

Second, find the right resources. The single resource that I recommend to everyone is a Nave's Topical Bible. It is inexpensive in print format and provides essential information whenever I am faced with studying a Bible topic. Beyond the Nave's, I would recommend survey books like “What the Bible Is All About” by Henrietta Mears, “Halley's Bible Handbook” by Henry Halley, and Eerdmans “Handbook to the Bible”.

These resources will give you context and add concepts that were relevant to the writers and the audience for each book. If you want to study Daniel, you would do well to understand the world into which he was placed, how it impacted his young life, and then his older life. Trusted Bible Handbooks can help to keep relevant facts in their place.

Finally, fellowship with God. The point of reading the Bible is to know God! Yes, the Bible teaches history, science, relationships, and human traits, but the Bible is written so that we might meet God in every story, in each command, and through His loving covenants.

As we get to the end of February, we may have run out of our New Year's resolve to diligently read our Bible. Let me encourage you to get back to reading by following a plan and finding good resources, so that you may continue to fellowship with God.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING!

## There's a LifeStage for Everybody

Eight LifeStages are designed to enhance relationships with believers, establish connections within the Body, and encourage fellowship. If you're not already active in a like-minded group, contact the relevant leaders identified below.

### Forerunners

College and Career Singles — our youngest adults preparing for life independent from their parents. Led by Keith and Erin Seaman.



### Beginnings

Newlyweds and soon-to-be weds.  
Led by Pastor Kyle and Jessica Fannin.



### Foundations

Young families with small children.  
Led by Jamie and MinYoung Davidson.



### Homebuilders

Families with children from ages 6 to 12.  
Led by Shane and Erica Colvin.

**Navigators**

Families with teens and early college-age children. Led by Jason and Jolie Preston.



**Empty Nesters**

Couples whose children have left home. Led by Chris and Jen Graham.



**Horizons**

Couples in their mid to late 50's through their 60's. Led by Stuart and Yvonne Thayer, and Brian and Shannon Lawson.



**PrimeTimers**

Couples, widowers and widows in their golden years, led by Neal and Cookie Deering.



## **ENCOUNTERS: LIVING AS A CHRISTIAN IN A POST-CHRISTIAN WORLD**

**In this section we would like to share anecdotes from church members about their experiences (inspirational, amusing, or sad) as Christians living in a world that is increasingly hostile to Jesus Christ. Written submissions should be 200 to 300 words in length, or you could simply tell your story to us, and we will produce a suitable report. The anecdote below is an example.**

### **Wanting the Product, Not Willing to Pay the Price**

*By Edward Thal*

When I taught in a Christian school outside Washington D.C. (2001-2010) I would take students each year on field trips into the city, visiting famous monuments, or Capitol Hill, or some of the many art galleries and museums.

It often happened that strangers would approach me and remark on some aspect of the student's appearance or behavior— their modest dress, their politeness, or a lack of rowdiness from a group of 20 or more teenagers. Their knowledge would also cause surprise, as on the occasion when a student politely corrected a museum employee about the history of an ancient violin on display in the Library of Congress. (I was equally surprised!). Or the time when a student offered a little-known fact about a long dead president to a tour guide in the House of Representatives.

One particularly effusive couple remarked, "These kids are amazing! So well behaved. So smart. Are you their teacher? What's your secret?"

To which I was happy to reply: "The secret isn't with me. It's Jesus! Each one of these students is a follower of Jesus Christ – His life in them makes them who they are."

The discomfort of the instantly hostile couple was almost comical as their smiles froze and they turned away. I was left to wonder about the contradiction in the sinful human heart that is drawn to the "product" that a relationship with Jesus ensures (goodness, kindness, joy, peace, clarity of purpose and priorities), but is repelled by the price to pay for it – surrendering our will and our ways to the will and way of God.

## BIBLE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

**Life comes at us in a hurry, sometimes making it difficult to get timely answers to questions that confront us while reading the Bible or wondering how to apply Bible truth to real-world problems. Here we aim to answer your particular question while also providing a resource for our church family.**

**Here's a question** about the Word of God, as it was submitted: "As a Church, we often refer to the Bible as the Word of God. However, scripture often uses the term "the scriptures" when referring to itself. We see the phrase "Word of God" in a number of places throughout the Bible and a lot of them are not referring to scripture. For example; the "Word of the Lord" came to Abraham in a vision and not scripture. Also the spoken Word of God created the universe in Genesis. Further, Jesus is referred to as the Word of God in John 1. Are the scriptures different to the "Word of God?" How is it that the "Word of God" is both the Bible and Jesus?"

**The Answer:** The first time God's words are recorded is in Genesis 1:3. The phrase "and God said" is repeated on each day of creation. From this we learn that God literally begins our existence with His Spoken Word. Then we see Him speaking through the rest of Genesis. He speaks to Noah, to Abraham, and to Jacob. His Word might come by an audible voice, or in a vision, or even from His mouth in physical form as was the case for Abraham when the messenger visited him accompanied by two angels. In each of these instances, the Words recorded are those that God chose to inspire Moses to write, as part of God's revelation to us.

The phrases the *Word of the Lord* and the *Word of God* indicated times when God directly communicated with an individual, which Words would later be recorded by a prophet, or by the prophet's scribe.

A prophet was merely a human instrument who would truthfully declare what God revealed to him. These holy men were inspired by God to record these Words for their generation, and for later generations to come. Moses is the prophet that God moved to record the Creation account and the genealogical progression from Noah, through Abraham, to his own life in Exodus chapter 2.

Moses wrote around 1500 BC. For the next 1600 years, to the Apostle John's writing around AD 90, God would move upon prophets to speak His Words and to record them for both specific and special revelations of Himself. This process is explained for us in 2 Peter 1:19-21.

A wonderful story of the actual mechanics of such inspiration is found in Jeremiah 36:1-4. It was the prophets, holy men, who spoke as God's Holy Spirit inspired them. The scribes would then record the words not just for posterity, but for personal retention and revelation.

Many times in Israel's history, the Law (as we know it in the Pentateuch) was lost by a wicked king, and later found by a good king. The recovery of God's Word would always spark a revival and renewal. That is what His word does. It brings life, health, and peace.

For further clarification, we must take a closer look at the words "Scripture" and "Bible". Judaism collected what Christians call the Old Testament, into their Tanakh, or Bible. The Tanakh consisted in Jesus' day of the Torah (Pentateuch), the Prophets, and the Writings (Historical and Poetical books). For Christians, the New Testament is not an addition to the Hebrew Bible, but a completion of God's special revelation to us about Redemption and a Savior.

The word "scripture" is found 32 times in the King James translation of the Bible. It is used both in the OT and NT, and it always refers to the recorded books of the Hebrew Bible. Peter makes the strongest connection of Paul and other NT writings to be included in the whole of a now two testament Bible in **2 Peter 3:15-16**.

The testaments were divided by the fact explained in Hebrews Chapter 9, that those under the Law were divided from those under grace with the death of a testator. This brings us then to the Living Word. The core element of the question, beyond distinguishing the differing descriptive titles, is what harmony can we find in the book we read called the Bible, and Jesus the Living Word. For the purpose of explanation I will differentiate them as the Lasting Word (the Bible), and the Living Word (Jesus). In Luke 24:44-48 the resurrected Jesus is recorded as teaching a final powerful lesson to those gathered by the seashore with Him.



*And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things.*

The writing of the OT was to open our understanding for Christ's sacrificial death, while the writing of the NT, is to introduce Christ's life. From the beginning, Jesus has been THE WORD OF GOD! (1 John 5:7). Thus, every word that the Spirit of God inspired in both the Old and New Testaments drew us into a better understanding of the WORD, JESUS CHRIST!

The opening to the Gospel According to John (verses 1-5) declares that Jesus was in the beginning as the Word, with God and as God, the Creator of all and the sustainer of all. In particular, His light shining in darkness was the life of men. Then in John 1:14 we are told that the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us!

Jesus the Living Word has always existed. When God began to speak our Creation into existence it was Jesus who uttered those words (Col 1:16). Every recorded word in the Bible, both Old and New Testament, brings us a better knowledge, a better understanding, and deeper comprehension of about Jesus Christ.

We can stand alone on the Word of God, the B-I-B-L-E, because it alone contains the Lasting Words that Jesus wants us to know about Him, the Living Word.

*Pastor Kyle*